

10 JUN 1973

Bare B'nai B'rith As Target of CIA

By JOSEPH VOLZ

Washington, June 9 (NEWS Bureau)—The Central Intelligence Agency targeted a wide variety of American organizations—including the Jewish fraternal group B'nai B'rith—for surveillance, despite a law banning the CIA from domestic snooping, THE NEWS was told today.

The CIA, by law confined to espionage activities in foreign countries, has been under increasing attack on Capitol Hill since it was revealed that in 1971 Marine Gen. Robert Cushman, then CIA deputy director, provided spy equipment to Watergate conspirator E. Howard Hunt Jr.

Hunt, an ex-CIA agent, was later convicted of breaking into the Democrats' Watergate headquarters here and has admitted planning the burglary of the Los Angeles office of Daniel Ells-

Hunt Got CIA Assistance

berg's psychiatrist.

CIA officials admit they provided a wig, tape recorder and voice alteration machine to Hunt, on orders from John D. Ehrlichman, former White House domestic affairs chief, but had no idea Hunt planned anything illegal.

But it was learned from reliable sources that the agency's "dirty tricks" division, which specializes in clandestine activities including wiretapping, has been engaged in missions inside the United States for at least five years. The spies have been working in as many as 50 American cities often using the open—and legal—"Contact Services" operation as a front.

Contact Services has field offices around the country—the Manhattan office is listed in the telephone directory although no address is given. The ostensible purpose of "Contact Services" is to contact tourists and other visitors to foreign countries asking for details of what they saw.

In the late 1960's, a bitter battle between the open intelligence



Richard Helms
Announced the policy

division and the covert agents from "dirty tricks" was waged over who would control Contact Services. After a well-publicized revelation that the CIA had infiltrated the National Student Association, the dirty tricks division lost.

However, despite remarks by Richard Helms, then CIA director, in staff meetings that the domestic snooping would be left to the FBI, as the law required, the dirty tricks group established a parallel organization in various field offices for clandestine operations.

On the West Coast, the in-

fighting has centered over how to conduct espionage operations against China. Contact Services has used a low-key approach asking travelers to China to report what they see.

In one case, according to CIA sources, a professor turned down Contact Services for personal reasons — he had relatives in China who might be in jeopardy — but the clandestine forces sought "to muscle" the professor into helping under the threat of revealing embarrassing personal information.

The sources revealed that the agency's involvement in domestic activities goes back years before a young White House aide, Tom Charles Huston, made a controversial proposal for coordinating domestic spying to President Nixon in 1970. Nixon at first approved the program of bugging and breaking into facilities of radical groups but reversed himself five days later after the late FBI Director, J. Edgar Hoover, feuding with the CIA, objected.

CIA spokesman declined comment today on the reported operation against B'nai B'rith, but why the agency was interested in the nationwide group, which has 500,000 members, was unclear. It is known, however, that Israeli intelligence activities have been of particular interest to the agency because of the situation in the Middle East. Some observers believe that the CIA wants to keep tabs on organizations that have regular contacts with Israel.

Denies Activity Within U.S.

The CIA spokesman denied the agency conducts intelligence operations against "American institutions that operate strictly within the United States." But he declined comment when asked if the agency spies against groups in the U.S. that have foreign contacts.

One intelligence source said: "If you want me to say nothing is done clandestinely by the CIA within the United States, well I just couldn't say that."